

MYZANTHA LUTEA, Gould.

Luteous Honey-eater.

Myzantha lutea, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VII. p. 134.

I consider this to be by far the finest species of the genus yet discovered, exceeding as it does every other both in size and in the brilliancy of its colouring. I am indebted to Messrs. Bynoe and Dring for fine specimens of this beautiful bird, which were obtained by those gentlemen on the north-west coast of Australia, in which part of the country it supplies the place of the Myzantha garrula of New South Wales. The law of representation is rarely carried out in a more beautiful manner, even in the ornithology of Australia, than in the members of the present genus; the Myzantha garrula being, so far as is yet known, confined to the south-eastern portion of the country, the M. lutea to the neighbourhood of the north-eastern portion of the country.

Naked space behind the eye, forehead and the tips of several feathers on the sides of the neck, fine citron-yellow; lores blackish brown with silvery reflexions; upper surface grey, the feathers of the back of the neck and back crossed near the tip with white; rump, upper tail-coverts and under surface white; throat and chest tinged with grey, each feather crossed by an arrow-shaped mark of brown; wings and tail brown, the external margins of the feathers dull citron-yellow; tail tipped with white; bill fine citron-yellow; feet yellowish brown.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size